AMERICAN COMICS GROUP AMG

DARING the SUPERNATURAL

AMERICAN COMICS GROUP AMG

No 8
MAY

OUT OF the NIGHT

10¢

KNOW THE HORROR OF MY FROZEN TOUCH, MORTAL···AND **DIE!**

Was THE LAKE HAUNTED ···BY A VENGEFUL SPECTER WHOSE VERY NEARNESS SPELLED DEATH? FOR THE STRANGEST STORY OF THE CENTURY, THRILL TO "The FROZEN GHOST"!

HELP! HELP!

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THROUGHOUT MAN'S EXISTENCE, **NUMBERS** HAVE PLAYED A LEADING PART IN MANY DECISIVE EVENTS! HERE IS A CHILLING STORY OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN A MAN'S DESTINY HANGS ON THE DREAD INFLUENCE OF A SINGLE NUMBER---AND HOW HIS OWN GREED CAN CAUSE HIM TO BE---

NUMBERED for DEATH!

7777

YOUR FATEFUL NUMBER IS **SEVEN!** AND TO USE IT WRONGLY--- MEANS **DE-STRUCTION!**

IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO ANY CHEAP CROOK---IT **DID** HAPPEN TO "JABBER" JANX---

COPS! WONDER IF THEY'RE AFTER **ME?**

WOO-000

BUT THIS TIME---THE POLICE WERE AFTER SOMEONE **ELSE!**

PST! THIS WAY, PAL!

THEY'LL NEVER FIND YOU DOWN HERE--- IT'S ONE O' MY **HIDEOUTS!**

OUT OF THE NIGHT, published bi-monthly and copyright, 1953, by Creston Publications Corp., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis 7, Missouri. Editorial offices, 45 West 45 St., New York 36, N. Y. Richard E. Hughes, Editor; Frederick H. Iger, Business Manager. Subscription (12 issues), $1.20; single copies, $0.10; foreign postage extra. All characters are fictitious and use of any real names is coincidental. For advertising information, address American Comics Group, 45 West 45 St., New York 36, N. Y. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo. No. 8, April-May, 1953. Printed in U.S.A.

WHY DID YOU HELP ME?

I'D WANT ANY OTHER HOOD T'DO THE SAME FOR *ME!*

YOU DO NOT ASK WHO I AM---DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW?

YOU MAY BE THE DEVIL HIMSELF FOR ALL I KNOW---BUT THAT'S FOR THE **COPS** TO WORRY ABOUT!

Then THE MYSTERIOUS FUGITIVE STEPPED INTO THE LIGHT---AND JABBER LOOKED UPON THE HIDEOUS FACE OF---***DEATH!***

YOUR GUESS WAS CLOSE! I AM AN EMISSARY OF SATAN---ON A SPECIAL MISSION!

ULP!

I CANNOT RETURN TO HADES UNTIL MIDNIGHT ---AND HAD THE POLICE CAUGHT ME, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN---UH---***AWKWARD!*** WE OF THE WORLD BENEATH ***DISLIKE*** THE POLICE!

Terrified, JABBER'S ONLY THOUGHT WAS TO GET RID OF HIS GRUESOME VISITOR!

YOU HAVE HELPED OUR CAUSE---AND ACCORDING TO THE INFERNAL CODE, I MUST ***REPAY*** YOU!

ER---NO, THANKS! FORGET IT! WE UNDERWORLD GUYS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER!

I INSIST! NOW---CHOOSE A NUMBER, ***ANY*** NUMBER!

I BETTER HUMOR THIS CREEP---HE'S A NUT, FOR SURE!

WHY---UH--- ***SEVEN!***

In SEPULCHRAL TONES OF DOOM, JABBER'S FATE WAS READ!

SEVEN WILL BE YOUR FATEFUL NUMBER! DEPENDING ON HOW YOU USE IT, IT WILL BRING YOU RICHES---OR ***DESTRUCTION!***

AS MIDNIGHT TOLLED···

GOSH···HE'S ···VANISHED!

REMEMBER ···THE SPELL WILL END IN SEVEN DAYS!

THAT NIGHT, SLEEP CAME HARD FOR JABBER···A SLEEP FRAUGHT WITH NIGHTMARES···

SEVEN···IT WILL BRING YOU RICHES OR···DE-STRUCTION!

IN THE MORNING···

SURE···THE WHOLE THING WAS A···A NIGHT-MARE! IT NEVER HAPPENED!

THE FRIGHTENING EVENT FORGOTTEN, JABBER WENT TO "WORK"···AS USUAL···

C'MON, THREE···! AH, RATS··· I LOST AGAIN!

SIX TIMES JABBER LOST···THEN, BY ACCIDENT, HE BET ON HORSE NUMBER SEVEN···

WHAT THE···! NUMBER SEVEN WON···IN THE SEVENTH RACE! AND THAT CREEP SAID SEVEN WAS MY LUCKY NUMBER!

A COINCIDENCE? JABBER DECIDED TO FIND OUT···

I'M BETTING IT ALL ON SEVEN!

YES, JABBER WON···AND WON AGAIN···UNTIL AT LAST···

THE WHEEL'S CLOSED!···YOU BROKE THE BANK!

IT'S TRUE···SEVEN IS MY LUCKY NUMBER! I'M RICH!

THUS JABBER JANX, CHEAP CROOK, BEGAN A NEW LIFE···

GEE, JABBER, YOU'RE GENEROUS WITH YER DOUGH!

I CAN AFFORD T'BE, BABY···I GOT A **UNLIMITED SUPPLY!**

PIERRE'S

PIGE

Dance Rel

MA

BLIND

IT'S A LITTLE SMALL, BUT I'LL TAKE IT! HERE'S THE CASH!

:GULP: YESSIR, MISTER JANX!

The GLORIOUS WEEK PASSED WITH NO HINT OF IMPENDING DISASTER···UNTIL THE LAST DAY···

HA! I'M BEIN' A SUCKER! IF I USE MY HEAD, BY MIDNIGHT, I CAN BE THE **RICHEST GUY IN THE WORLD!**

HMM···THERE'S LOTS O' WAYS···I COULD BUY STOCK WITH SEVEN LETTERS IN IT, OR···

RUNNING!

JUST A FRIENDLY CALLER···AN ACQUAINTANCE OF THE OLD DAYS···

HELLO, JABBER···THOUGHT I'D REMIND YOU OF THAT LITTLE GAMBLING DEBT! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME···

HUH? OH, YEAH··· C'MON IN!

NOW THAT YOU'RE IN THE CHIPS, YOU CAN PAY OFF!

SURE, SURE···LE'SEE NOW, HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?

INCLUDING INTEREST, IT COMES TO AN EVEN **SEVEN THOUSAND!**

WH-WHAT?

ANOTHER COINCIDENCE?---OR AN ILL OMEN?

M-MAYBE MY LUCK'S TURNIN'--- ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP IT!

WELL---DO I GET PAID OFF?

RIGHT!---THIS IS THE PAY-OFF!

UGH!

BANG! BANG!

JABBER WAS AN EXPERIENCED HAND AT GETTING RID OF BODIES---

NOW---TO GET HIM IN THE CAR, AND THEN--- TO THE RIVER!

BUT NOW, HIS NERVES GREW JAGGED---HE BECAME CARELESS---

YIPE!---WENT THROUGH A RED LIGHT!

STOP

GO

SCREE-EECH!

ONE BY ONE, DESTINY DEALT ITS CARDS---FROM A STACKED DECK!

CREEPERS! LOOK WHERE I STOPPED!

AN'--THAT COP'S BADGE NUMBER!

SEVENTH AVENUE

IN A FRENZY OF TERROR, JABBER DROVE OFF AT BREAK-NECK SPEED!

IF THEY FIND THIS STIFF IN THE CAR, I'M A **DEAD DUCK!**

HEY--- **STOP!**

THEN---IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR---A GLIMPSE OF GRINNING HORROR!

IT---CAN'T BE! Y-YOU'RE **DEAD!** I **KILLED** YOU!

IN A COLD SWEAT, JABBER HEARD HIS MURDERED VICTIM SPEAK---!

NO---YOU ONLY WOUNDED ME! IF YOU GIVE ME THE SEVEN GRAND YOU OWE ME, WE'LL CALL IT SQUARE!

AND NOW, RELIEF FLOODED OVER JABBER--DESTINY HAD GIVEN HIM ANOTHER CHANCE!

SURE---HERE IT IS---WITH INTEREST!

LAUGHING, JABBER SCREECHED TO A HALT---

GIMME A TICKET, OFFICER ---I JUST GOT RATTLED, THAT'S ALL!

OH, YEAH?---I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT ALL!

POOR JABBER---DESTINY HAD DEALT HIM THE JOKER!

B-BUT---HE CAN'T BE DEAD! I JUST TALKED TO HIM!

NO, JABBER---YOU SPOKE TO ME! I WARNED YOU---USED WRONGLY, YOUR GIFT WOULD BRING YOU---DESTRUCTION!

---AND WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR JABBER TO MAKE HIS FINAL BID---EVEN THE GALLOWS SEEMED TO MOCK HIM---

EVEN THE GALLOWS ---LIKE THE FIGURE SEVEN---

The END

The Belt of Evil

THE ANCIENT BELIEFS OF **ZOROASTRIANISM** TELL OF A BATTLE WAGED HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS BETWEEN **ORMAZD,** THE SPIRIT OF GOOD... AND **AHRIMAN,** THE SPIRIT OF EVIL! AND IT IS WRITTEN IN THE 30TH BOOK OF **YASNA** THAT ORMAZD GAINED SUPREMACY OVER AHRIMAN BY SLASHING OFF THE GOD OF EVIL'S MAGICAL AND INDESTRUCTIBLE BELT...

...WHICH THEREUPON FELL TO THE MESOPOTAMIAN DESERT BELOW, DESTINED TO BE COVERED UP BY THE SANDS OF TIME...

...UNTIL DISCOVERED AEONS LATER IN AN EXCAVATION IN MODERN-DAY IRAN BY A SLAVIC ARCHEOLOGIST NAMED IVAN GUBITCHEV!

I'VE FOLLOWED THE CLUES IN THE OLD LEGENDS-- **AND FOUND IT AT LAST!** BUT HOW CAN I BE **SURE** THAT IT'S **REALLY** THE **BELT OF AHRIMAN?**

I'LL-- PUT IT TO THE **TEST!** THE OLD TALES SAY THAT AHRIMAN WAS ALL-POWERFUL BECAUSE EVERY WISH OF HIS WAS GRANTED WHILE HE WORE THE BELT! I'LL SEE HOW I LOOK IN IT-- BY WISHING FOR A **FULL-LENGTH MIRROR!**

INSTANTLY--

MY... MY WISH WAS **GRANTED!** THIS **IS** AHRIMAN'S SACRED BELT! WHICH MEANS I'VE FULFILLED THE MISSION MY COUNTRY SENT ME ON!

THIS IS THE SECRET WEAPON WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO **CONQUER THE WORLD**! BUT FIRST, BEFORE I WISH MYSELF BACK IN THE MOTHERLAND, WHY SHOULDN'T I HAVE SOMETHING FOR **MYSELF?** I WISH TO SEE BEFORE ME **MORE PRECIOUS JEWELS THAN ANY MAN ON EARTH POSSESSES!**

LOOK, AHMED-- JEWELS! THEY... THEY SPRANG UP FROM THE EARTH ALL AROUND US!

HA, HA-- NOW I WISH TO HAVE THE JEWELS BURIED IN THE GROUND-- SO THAT I CAN RETURN HERE AT SOME FUTURE DATE AND HELP MYSELF TO THE TREASURE!

BY THE BEARD OF THE PROPHET-- THE JEWELS VANISHED AS SOON AS I TOUCHED THEM-- AS IF THE EARTH SWALLOWED THEM UP!

THERE IS **SORCERY** HERE! LET US RIDE OVER THE DUNE TO LOOK FOR THE SORCERER -- AND IF WE FIND HIM, WE WILL MAKE HIM DIE THE DEATH OF A THOUSAND KNIVES UNLESS HE MAKES THE JEWELS APPEAR ONCE AGAIN!

THAT MUST BE, HE-- **SEIZE HIM**

HA-- I WILL HAVE SOME SPORT WITH THEM-- **MAY THEY PERISH BENEATH BURNING OIL DESCENDING FROM THE SKIES!**

YAGHH!

NOW TO RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND-- BUT WAIT-- I MUST BE CAREFUL! THE STRAIN OF THE INSTANTANEOUS FLIGHT MAY BE TOO GREAT! SO I WILL TRAVEL MORE LEISURELY --IN THE STYLE OF THE ANCIENT LEGENDS! I WISH FOR A ***FLYING CARPET*** THAT WILL TAKE ME ANYWHERE I DESIRE!

MOMENTS LATER-- WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING TO BE ALL-POWERFUL, TO HAVE THE SLIGHTEST WHIM INSTANTLY GRANTED! AND WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY IT WILL BE WHEN THE GENERALISSIMO USES THE BELT OF AHRIMAN TO ASSURE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S DEMOCRACIES! HA, HA-- I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ***ANYONE*** TRY TO STOP US FROM CONQUERING THE WORLD-- EVEN ***ORMAZD*** HIMSELF!

THAT WISH, TOO, WILL BE GRANTED, INFIDEL!

WHA--! THAT... THAT MUST BE ***ORMAZD!*** BUT-- I... I DID NOT MEAN WHAT I SAID AS A ***WISH!***

IT IS TOO LATE, EVIL ONE! I, ORMAZD, ONCE AGAIN BATTLE AGAINST THE POWER OF AHRIMAN!

NO... NO! DO NOT TAKE THE BELT AWAY! WITHOUT IT, I AM HELPLESS---

LET THIS BELT OF EVIL ONCE AGAIN BE BURIED BENEATH THE SANDS OF TIME!

VAGHHH

*AND SO ONCE AGAIN THE SHIFTING SANDS OF THE IRANIAN DESERT SLOWLY BUT RELENTLESSLY COVER THE BELT OF AHRIMAN! WHO WILL DISCOVER IT AGAIN? WILL IT BE **YOU**, READER?*

The End

BLACK DANCE BAYOU

THE SCATTERED INHABITANTS of Black Dance Bayou in Southern Louisiana trembled at the name of Maw Lupin. Some said she was more than a hundred years old. All agreed that she was evil, for those who had incurred her wrath had died sudden and violent deaths. Over the years, however, she had done a thriving business with those who sought voodoo charms to ward off evil, or hexes to be put on an enemy.

Now the rumor had circulated that Maw Lupin was dying, and since she had no friends, no one thought of journeying to her remote and gloomy shack deep in the bayou to offer help. But to Clem Reese, a young swamp tramp with a prison record, the situation offered a golden opportunity to get rich quick. It was well known that Maw Lupin kept a hoard of gold coins in an old coffer on the mantlepiece of her fireplace.

Black Dance Bayou was dark and humid when he arrived at her shack. From far off came the screaming of night birds and the deep-throated croaking of bullfrogs. Creeping slowly up to the window, he looked inside, and saw the old woman slumped in her chair, staring fixedly into the crackling flames of the fireplace. For a moment he had the strange feeling that she was a creature from Hades, illuminated by the glow of Hellfire.

"Evenin', Maw Lupin," he said, pushing past the squeaky door. "Heard you been ailin'."

There was no reply from the old woman, nor any indication that she was aware of his presence. Timidly he approached the chair and looked into her eyes. They still peered rigidly ahead.

"Listen," he said breathlessly. "Yer goin' to die, an' you got a heap o' gold in that old coffer on the mantle. You don't need it no more, an' *I do!*"

Her eyes did not move as she hissed, "Go away...*now*...before I curse your bones to perdition."

"I ain't scared o' you," said Clem, suddenly defiant. "Yer too old to harm me anymore."

The coffer proved surprisingly heavy as heplacedit under hls arm. Suddenly the old woman made a desperate effort to rise. Strangely fascinated, Clem watched her gain her feet, her breath coming fast between her toothless gums. Then, with a frightful shriek, she pitched forward on her face. Trembling with uncontrollable fear, Clem turned the body over. She was dead.

It was quite dark as he made his way back through the swamps. After he had been traveling a half hour he felt with an uncanny sense of dread that he was being followed. Unaccountably, the night birds and bullfrogs were suddenly quiet, and the whole bayou brooded in the intense and unnatural silence. As be turned into the darkest and most dangerous part of the swamp, unbearable stabs of fear began clutching at his heart. Then, without warning, a maniacal laugh sounded behind him. Like a man possessed Clem Reese whirled around.

Maw Lupin looked hardly different in death. But now he could see only her face, hovering at tree-top level and glowing fiercely, as if illuminated by the red glare of Hades.

Sheer terror took possession of him. Without thinking he began to run forward madly, forgetting that he had already made the fatal turn into the most treacherous stretch of Black Dance Bayou, and that the perilous quicksands were *ahead*...

The superstitious folk of Black Dance Bayou found Maw Lupin's body a few days later, staring lifelessly at the ceiling. And though a thorough search was made for the coffer laded with her ill-gotten gold, it was never found.

Nor was Clem Reese ever heard from again...

The FROZEN GHOST

AS THE ANCIENT PIPES ARE PASSED AROUND THE SACRED INDIAN COUNCIL FIRES, MANY STRANGE AND WONDERFUL TALES ARE TOLD-- AND RETOLD -- LEGENDS PASSED DOWN THROUGH TRIBAL HISTORY! MOST SPINE-TINGLING OF ALL IS THE LEGEND OF THE **FROZEN GHOST**-- THE SUPERNATURAL FORM OF A GREAT CHIEF WHO HAD DEFIED THE GODS -- AND KNOWN THEIR MOST TERRIBLE CURSE! YOU WILL MEET HIM HERE, READER-- IN ALL HIS HORROR -- AS A MODERN MORTAL PURSUES HIM INTO HIS MARINE DEPTHS -- FOR A BATTLE TO THE FINISH!

AT THE EDGE OF A SERENE POOL IN THE NORTH WOODS -- A STRANGE PREMONITION --

I CAN'T HELP IT ROY -- THERE'S SOMETHING **STRANGE** ABOUT THIS PLACE -- IT **FRIGHTENS** ME! AND YET -- THERE'S A KIND OF HORRIBLE **FASCINATION** TO IT!

YOU'RE BEING VERY SILLY, DARLING -- THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY POOL -- LIKE ANY OTHER!

NO, MR. WILSON, IT IS **NOT** LIKE ANY OTHER! YOUR WIFE HAS FELT ITS LINGERING **CURSE** -- THE CURSE MY PEOPLE STILL KNOW THROUGH AN ANCIENT LEGEND!

CURSE? LEGEND? I LOVE THESE OLD FOLK-TALES -- PLEASE TELL IT TO US!

IT GOES BACK MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS -- TO A TERRIBLE WINTER! IN THE ICY GRIP OF THE FROST, THE ENTIRE TRIBE TREMBLED BEFORE THE APPROACH OF CERTAIN DEATH...

"FRANTIC, THE TRIBAL ELDERS WENT TO ***TEHAKUMSA,*** THE GREAT CHIEF, NOTED FOR HIS STRENGTH AND POWER--"

O GREAT, ALL-POWERFUL CHIEF-- HELP US... LEST THE PEOPLE PERISH!

THE DEER HAVE FLED--THE REINDEER LEAVE NO TRACK-- AND THE BRAVES FALL STIFF IN THE SNOW!

"DETERMINED TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE, TEHAKUMSA ORDERED THE GREAT COUNCIL FIRES LIT, THE SACRED DRUMS TO BEAT, AND THE MEDICINE MEN TO CHANT THE GREAT INCANTATIONS! SUDDENLY, LOOMING UP BEFORE THEIR EYES-- THE DREAD FORM OF THE ***FROST GOD!***"

HEAR ME, O EVIL SPIRIT-- I, TEHAKUMSA, COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE THIS VILLAGE! ***GO***-- LEST MY WRATH FALL UPON YOU!

"THE ELDERS TREMBLED IN FEAR-- FOR THE CHIEF, MIGHTY AS HE WAS, WAS STILL A MAN OF FLESH AND BLOOD-- AND HE HAD THREATENED... ***A GOD!***"

FOOLISH MORTAL-- I SHALL NEVER LEAVE-- NOT UNTIL YOUR LAST BRAVE, YOUR LAST SQUAW, HAS FELT MY COLD AND GRISLY TOUCH!

THEN I SHALL ***DESTROY*** YOU-- WITH THESE HANDS WHICH HAVE VANQUISHED THE BEAR AND THE WOLF!

"AND THUS, A MERE MORTAL JOINED BATTLE WITH THE GRIMMEST OF GODS!"

YOUR PUNY STRENGTH IS POWERLESS AGAINST ME-- KNOW THEN THE BLIGHTING HAND OF ***DEATH!***

AARGHH!

"SUDDENLY, THE BODY OF TEHAKUMSA STIFFENED WITH ICE, HIS MIGHT FROZEN BY A BEING FROM THE ***BEYOND!***"

FOR DARING TO DEFY ME-- I PLACE THIS CURSE UPON YOU-- FOREVER SHALL YOU DWELL AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS POOL, FROZEN TO THE END OF TIME! AND I GIVE YOU THIS POWER-- ***WHATEVER YOU TOUCH WILL ITSELF TURN TO ICE!***

"AS THE IMPLACABLE GOD HURLED THE BODY INTO THE DEPTHS--"

THIS SHALL BE AN ACCURSED PLACE FOREVER-- WHILE YOUR SPIRIT FOREVER SEEKS VICTIMS-- SEARCHING FOR THE WARMTH IN THEIR HUMAN BODIES-- A WARMTH YOU CAN ***NEVER FEEL AGAIN!***

WHAT A ***GRUESOME*** STORY-- AND TO THINK THAT IT HAPPENED ***HERE***-- ON ***THIS*** SPOT!

COME ON, HONEY-- IT'S JUST AN OLD-WIVES' TALE-- LET'S GET BACK TO THE CABIN!

LATER THAT AFTERNOON, AN UNEXPECTED VISIT BY THE SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTY--

SOMETHING'S COME UP I WANT TO WARN YOU ABOUT-- SEEIN' AS HOW YOU LIVE SO FAR FROM THE VILLAGE --

ANOTHER LEGEND, SHERIFF?

THIS IS REAL ENOUGH -- A MAN'S BEEN MURDERED! FOUND THE BODY AN HOUR AGO-- NOT FAR FROM THE LAKE -- FROZEN TO DEATH!

I'LL MEET YOU DOWN AT THE WATER'S EDGE, SHERIFF-- I'M GONNA HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AROUND!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE? IT'S OVER 90° IN THE SUN! HOW COULD A MAN BE -- FROZEN?

WISH I KNEW, SON-- IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE -- NOT IN MY TIME, BUT I'VE HEARD STORIES, WHICH I NEVER BELIEVED -- TILL NOW!

SUDDENLY-- A BLOOD-CHILLING CRY OF AGONY!

YE GODS, SHERIFF -- IT SEEMED TO COME FROM THE POOL! STAY HERE, MARY-- I'VE GOT A FEELING WERE GOING TO FIND SOMETHING -- HORRIBLE!

YAAGHH

FROZEN -- FROZEN SOLID! AND IT'S STILL OVER NINETY DEGREES!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! BUT THERE'S SOME EXPLANATION-- THERE'S GOT TO BE!

NEXT DAY--

I JUST WON'T BELIEVE IT, HONEY-- PHANTOMS, INDIAN LEGENDS, FROZEN CORPSES IN MIDSUMMER -- IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHY, IF I DIDN'T HAVE THINGS TO DO, I'D TAKE A SWIM MYSELF, RIGHT IN THAT POOL!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M GOING TO DO, DARLING -- IT'S A REAL SCORCHER TODAY!

THE WATER -- IT **FASCINATES** ME -- AND SCARES ME A LITTLE, TOO! STRANGE HOW IT SHIMMERS AND SPARKLES -- AS IF IT'S **WARNING** ME! OH, WELL, I MUST BE GETTING JUMPY -- I'LL JUST TAKE A QUICK SWIM AND COME OUT!

IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION -- BUT THE WATER SEEMS TO BE GETTING COLD -- **V-VERY COLD!** I'D BETTER HEAD FOR SHORE!

FOR SHORE? **HA-HA-HA!** NO -- **THIS** SHALL BE YOUR GRAVE!

M-MERCIFUL HEAVENS! IT'S HIM -- THE FROZEN GHOST! AND THE WATER -- IT SEEMS **ALIVE** -- AS IF IT WERE PULLING ME DOWN WITH FINGERS OF ICE! I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT BACK -- **I'VE GOT TO!**

FOOL -- YOU ARE FATED TO DIE -- I CAN PURSUE YOU ANYWHERE!

FLIGHT IS USELESS -- YOU MUST DIE!

NO -- IT WON'T GET ME! ROY! ROY! HELP!

AS THE GRIM RACE DREW TO ITS FEARFUL END

IT'S G-GAINING ON ME -- I... CAN'T BREATHE -- BUT I'LL MAKE IT TO THE DOOR -- **I MUST!**

OH, ROY -- THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE HERE! IT FOLLOWED ME -- **THE MONSTER** -- FROM THE POOL -- **IT'S OUTSIDE!**

TAKE IT EASY, DARLING -- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? **WHAT'S** OUTSIDE?

THAT! THE GHOST OF **TEHAKUMSA!**

YE GODS -- THEN IT'S **TRUE!** BUT GHOST OR NO GHOST -- HE'S **NOT** GOING TO HARM YOU!

WHAM!

BUT AS ROY TOUCHED THE SPIRIT FROM THE FROZEN DEPTHS--

GREAT SCOTT-- MY ARMS-- THEY'RE PETRIFIED WITH COLD!

YES--AND SOON YOUR WHOLE BODY WILL GROW RIGID IN THE CLUTCH OF DEATH!

CRASH!

THERE--IT WILL SOON BE OVER! BUT WHAT'S-- THAT SMOKE--NO, I MUST FLEE-- QUICKLY!

I... I FEEL LIFE FLOWING THROUGH MY VEINS AGAIN! BUT WHY--WHAT HAPPENED? THAT LAMP--IT TURNED OVER! I GET IT--THE GHOST COULDN'T FACE THE FIRE--THE ANCIENT ENEMY OF SUPERNATURAL SPIRITS!

WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN--YOU'RE IN GREAT DANGER, HONEY--SO YOU'RE LEAVING BY THE NEXT TRAIN! I'LL FOLLOW JUST AS SOON AS I CLEAN UP A FEW THINGS HERE!

I WISH YOU WERE LEAVING WITH ME, DARLING--I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING AWFUL WILL HAPPEN IF YOU LEAVE ME ALONE!

NOW, HONEY--DON'T GET PANICKY! TOMORROW THIS'LL ALL SEEM LIKE AN ANCIENT NIGHTMARE!

THE TRAIN'LL BE ALONG IN HALF AN HOUR--I'LL LEAVE NOW--THE QUICKER I GET THE CABIN CLOSED OFF, THE QUICKER WE'LL BE TOGETHER!

ALL RIGHT, DARLING--BUT HURRY!

"A FEELING SOMETHING AWFUL WILL HAPPEN!" THOSE WERE MARY'S PROPHETIC WORDS--AND NO SOONER HAD ROY LEFT, THAN A STRANGE, IRRESISTIBLE URGE WELLED UP WITHIN HER! THE WEIRD BEAUTY OF THE POOL--ITS SHIMMERING SURFACE--THEY SEEMED TO BE CALLING--BECKONING HER TO COME CLOSER--CLOSER!

I... I FEEL HYPNOTIZED! I CAN'T RESIST IT! IT TELLS ME TO DRAW NEARER--NEARER!

SUDDENLY--WITH THE REMORSELESS SWIFTNESS OF A BEING STRIKING FROM THE UNKNOWN--

HA! AT LAST!-- AND NOW-- THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

NO! NO! EEEEEEE!

NONE OF MY VICTIMS HAVE EVER YIELDED UP THEIR LIFE-GIVING WARMTH--BUT NOW, PERHAPS..IF I CAN TAKE HER WITH ME--INTO MY REALM--

MEANWHILE--

WHAT AN IDIOT I WAS! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT HER ALONE-- SHE FELT SOMETHING AWFUL INTUITIVELY! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE STATION TO SEE IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT!

AT THE STATION--

MY WIFE--SHE'S NOT HERE! I LEFT HER SITTING THERE ON THAT BENCH!

MAYBE SHE JUST GOT TIRED OF WAITING, MR. WILSON-- GUESS SHE JUST WENT OUT FOR A STROLL!

FRANTIC WITH APPREHENSION, ROY DASHED INTO THE WOODS--HIS MIND CRUSHED BY THE BURDEN OF A SINGLE THOUGHT--

THE POOL--I KNOW SHE'S AT THAT ACCURSED SPOT! AND THE DEMON'S THIRSTING FOR REVENGE! IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HER I'LL GO CRAZY-- I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER!

AT THE EDGE OF THE WATER--A GHASTLY CLUE!

FOOTPRINTS--MARY'S FOOTPRINTS! AND THEY'RE FROZEN! YE GODS--I'M TOO LATE! I'LL HAVE TO GO IN AFTER HER!

WAIT, MR. WILSON, WAIT! WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE YOUR LIFE WOULD BE FORFEIT--BUT THERE IS STILL A CHANCE!

A CHANCE? ANYTHING--WHATEVER IT IS--I'LL DO IT!

YOU SPEAK BRAVELY-- BUT KNOW NOT THE PERILOUS JOURNEY AHEAD! MANY BRAVES HAVE TRIED TO RESCUE THEIR LOVED ONES FROM THE *LAIR OF THE FROZEN GHOST*-- ONLY TO PERISH IN HIS IRON GRIP! HAVE *YOU* THE COURAGE TO FACE HIS MIGHT-- *ALONE?*

COURAGE! FOR MARY-- I CAN DO ANYTHING!

THEN COME-- *QUICKLY!* FAR OFF DWELLS AN OLD WOMAN-- DESCENDED FROM OUR ANCIENT MEDICINE MEN! HER EYES CAN READ THE SECRETS OF THE DEPTHLESS FATHOMS-- HER VOICE CAN CARRY INTO THE BEYOND!

THEN *HURRY!* IT MAY *ALREADY* BE TOO LATE!

IN A REMOTE CORNER OF THE NORTH WOODS-- RARELY SEEN EVEN BY THE HUNTER AND TRAPPER--

YOU HAVE HEARD OUR STORY, O MOTHER OF KNOWLEDGE! CAN YOU HELP THIS MAN TO RESCUE HIS WIFE FROM THE SPIRIT OF TEHAKUMSA?

IT IS WRITTEN THAT ONE DAY THE POWER OF THE FROST GOD OVER THE SPIRIT OF TEHAKUMSA WILL BE DESTROYED! ONE MAN CAN DO IT-- A MORTAL WITH THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH TO DESCEND INTO THE WATERS-- INTO THE VERY ICE-KINGDOM OF THE FROZEN GHOST HIMSELF!

LIFE IS WORTHLESS WITHOUT MY WIFE-- SPEAK AND I WILL OBEY!

HERE IS THE AMULET OF THE FIRE GOD-- BY THE WORDS "*FERRO KA AMBUS*" WILL IT PRODUCE THE FIRE TO *RELEASE* THE SPIRIT OF TEHAKUMSA! BUT YOU MUST NOT USE IT EXCEPT IN HIS PRESENCE! NOW, GO TO THE POOL AND DIVE DEEP, *DEEP*-- AND FAR BENEATH THE WATERS, YOU WILL FIND *THE KINGDOM OF ICE!*

SO THE AGE-OLD BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL BEGAN-- THE COURAGE INSPIRED BY LOVE VERSUS THE POWER OF THE NETHER WORLD! DOWN, DOWN INTO THE GLOWING DEPTHS-- LUNGS BURSTING AND HEART POUNDING--

THERE'S GOT TO BE A BOTTOM TO THIS LAKE *SOMEWHERE!* I CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER-- WHAT'S THAT AHEAD-- THAT EERIE LIGHT?

AN EERIE LIGHT! YES-- AND MUCH MORE!

GREAT SCOTT-- THESE PILLARS OF ICE ARE HOLDING UP AN IMMENSE DOME! THE WATERS ARE BEING HELD BACK-- *THIS IS THE FROZEN GHOST'S DOMAIN!*

SUDDENLY -- LOOMING OUTSIDE OF THE SPECTRAL CAVERNS --

THESE CORPSES -- THEY'RE FROZEN STIFF -- BUT *INFUSED* WITH LIFE!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU CREEPS! *NOTHING'S* GOING TO STOP ME NOW!

POW!

POW!

WITH THE INDIAN AMULET MAINTAINING HIS BODY TEMPERATURE IN THE FROZEN DEPTHS, ROY SCURRIED DESPERATELY THROUGH THE ICY LABYRINTHS! SUDDENLY, AT THE MOUTH OF A GREAT CAVE --

GOOD GRIEF -- HOW AM I GOING TO GET PAST *THAT* MONSTER? BUT IF *MARY'S* IN THAT CAVE -- I'LL GET THROUGH -- *SOMEHOW!*

IN THE EERIE MARINE DEPTHS -- *A DUEL TO THE FINISH!*

GRRRRR!

THE KNIFE -- *SNAPPED CLEAN OFF!* IF HE ONCE GETS ME IN HIS GRIP, *I'M FINISHED!*

AS THE MURDEROUS BEAST LUMBERS IN FOR THE KILL --

THIS SHAFT OF ICE -- IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE -- *ICE AGAINST ICE!*

THANK HEAVENS -- *IT WORKED!* AND NOW FOR THE *FROZEN GHOST!*

ON -- ON THROUGH THE ENDLESS CORRIDORS -- AND THEN -- *INTO THE HEART OF THE DEMONS CAVERN* --

THERE THEY ARE -- B-BUT MARY -- SHE LOOKS SO STRANGE! IF ONLY THE THREE MAGIC WORDS THE OLD WOMAN TAUGHT ME *WORK!*

SO -- YOU HAVE DARED TO PURSUE ME TO MY OWN DOMAIN! THEN DIE!

YE GODS -- THE WORDS -- I CAN'T REMEMBER THE WORDS!

GAMBLING EVERYTHING ON A FRANTIC EFFORT TO GAIN TIME -- ROY THRUST THE AMULET BEFORE HIM --

WHAT STUPID TRICK IS THIS, MORTAL? THE AMULET CANNOT SAVE YOU -- UNLESS --

-- UNLESS I PRONOUNCE THE MAGIC WORDS!

GOOD LORD -- I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER! LET'S SEE -- FERRA -- FERRI --

SUDDENLY -- BURSTING INTO HIS OVERWROUGHT BRAIN --

I'VE GOT IT! STAND BACK, CREEP! FERRO KA AMBUS!

THOSE WORDS -- THEY SPELL... MY DOOM!

IN A FLASH WHICH LIGHTS THE IMMENSE GROTTO OF ICE -- THE SPIRIT OF TEHA-KUMSA IS RELEASED FROM THE SPELL OF THE FROST GOD --

AAGH!

AS ROY TURNED FROM THE GHASTLY SIGHT --

MARY -- THANK HEAVENS! I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST TO ME FOREVER!

GOSH -- I FEEL SO STRANGE! GOOD GRIEF -- LOOK! THE WALLS -- THEY'RE CRUMBLING! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

AS THE VAST UNDERWORLD MELTS AND BLENDS WITH THE WATERS ABOVE --

WE MADE IT! THE WATER IS BECOMING WARMER -- WHICH MEANS THE SURFACE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!

ON SHORE, MARY AND ROY WATCH THE FINAL SCENE OF THE LEGEND -- THE LAST ACT OF HORROR!

IT'S OVER, DARLING -- THE CURSE IS LIFTED!

YES -- AND WE'RE SAFE -- AT LAST!

THE END

OUT of the NIGHT... TO YOU!

FOR A LONG time now you fans of *"Out of the Night"* have deluged us with comments, encouragement and criticism. We've had a tough time keeping up with the ever-swelling mail pouch, but a diligent attention to its contents has taught us a great deal.

First, we've learned that the supernatural fan is the keenest newsstand hunter alive, constantly on the alert for the best in weird stories and vibrant art. Second, we've come to realize that there's no satisfying everybody, which keeps *us* constandy on our toes. We've geared the contents of *"Out of the Night"* to your expressed wishes, and the sellout which greets each issue informs us eloquently of our success. Nevertheless, we still get many indignant letters from fans who didn't find *their* favorite fare fulfilled.

Below we've selected a few of the thousands of letters we've received, just to give you an idea of what we're up against in planning each month's issue:

"Dear Editor:-

'Out of the Night' is the best comic book I've ever read. Still, I wish you'd have more about monsters coming out of the swamps...

--Jerry Lott, Vernal, Miss."

"Dear Editor:-

Your magazine is really tops. However, can't we have something once in a while about a horrible scientist and his helper?

--Betty Sue Still, Wetumpka, Ala."

"Dear Editor:-

'Out of the Night' is my favorite supernatural. But I'd go for more stories about vampires and werewolves...

--Steve Brundage, Montreal, Que."

"Dear Editor:-

Thanks for a great mag. But how about more Egyptian mummies coming back to life and zombies walking the earth...

--D. Purkey, Eugene, Ore."

So, when we greet you with an issue such as the present one, we're mighty happy, because we *know* this will gain your enthusiastic approval. *"Numbered for Death!"* is a spellbinding yarn which piles climax on climax right up until the last gasp-laden moment. *"The Frozen Ghost"* is as terrifying a tale as we've published in years, guaranteed to keep your pulse racing! Be sure to read *"Madman's Manor"* in a well-lighted room, for it's a ghostly tale of eerie chills and weird menace which will leave you listening fearfully for the slightest unusual sound when midnight strikes. And, in addition, we've backed up these yarns with a magnificent collection of shorter adventures into the strange and mysterious realms which lie beyond mortal ken.

If our efforts have been successful, why not let us know? If you feel you're not getting enough of *your* special interest... be it werewolves, vampires, ghosts, zombies, or the restless dead...let us know that too, simply by writing The Editor, *"Out of the Night"*, 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Uncanny Experiences

Case of the HORRIBLE HEARSE

I'M DR. JOSIAH R. VANDERHOLT OF THE MYLO CLINIC HOSPITAL-- AND I WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW ABOUT THE UNCANNY EXPERIENCE I HAD DURING MY RECENT VACATION IN SOUTHERN FRANCE! IT WAS AROUND DUSK THAT I DROVE INTO THE ANCIENT TOWN OF PONT DE LUSSAN--

STRANGELY, THE LOCAL HOTEL-KEEPER DIDN'T SEEM TO WANT MY BUSINESS--

NO, NO, MONSIEUR-- DO NOT STAY IN PONT DE LUSSAN ***TONIGHT!*** DRIVE ON -- ***IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!***

BUT ***WHY?*** WHAT'S GOING TO ***HAPPEN*** HERE TONIGHT?

AH, YOU DO NOT KNOW THE TERRIBLE ***CURSE OF PONT DE LUSSAN!*** CENTURIES AGO, DURING THE DARK AGES, THE TOWNSPEOPLE STONED TO DEATH A HUNCH-BACKED SORCERER NAMED PIERRE LAUTREC! BEFORE HE DIED, THE WIZARD PLACED A CURSE UPON THE INHABITANTS OF THIS TOWN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS UNTIL THE END OF TIME!

EVERY YEAR SINCE THEN, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH, A BLACK HEARSE DRAWN BY FOUR BLACK HORSES AND DRIVEN BY A ***PHANTOM HUNCHBACK*** ENTERS PONT DE LUSSAN! THE HEARSE STOPS IN FRONT OF VARIOUS HOUSES, AND WHEREVER THE PHANTOM POINTS, SOMEONE ***DIES*** IN THAT HOUSE -- WITH THE MARK OF ***STONES*** UPON HIM!

HOTEL

THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE BY FLIGHT -- FOR EVEN IF WE ARE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY WHEN THE HEARSE STOPS IN FRONT OF OUR HOMES, WE DIE WITH THE MARKS OF STONES UPON US! BUT ***YOU...*** YOU ARE NO DESCENDANT OF THE TOWNSMEN WHO STONED THE SORCERER -- SO ESCAPE WHILE YOU CAN! FOR TONIGHT -- ***THE HORRIBLE HEARSE COMES!***

SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE! I THINK I'LL STAY AND SEE THIS PHANTOM OF YOURS FOR MYSELF!

THE HOTEL-KEEPER GRUDGINGLY ASSIGNED ME A ROOM -- AND AS MIDNIGHT TOLLED OUT OVER THE SILENT, DESERTED STREETS OF PONT DE LUSSAN --

NOT A LIGHT IN ANY OF THE HOUSES -- THE VILLAGERS ARE PROBABLY ALL COWERING BENEATH THEIR BEDS! WAIT -- I SEEM TO HEAR THE SOUNDS OF... ***HORSES' HOOVES!***

CLOP CLOP CLOP

THE HOOFBEATS GREW LOUDER--AND THEN, TO MY AMAZEMENT--

A BLACK HEARSE -- DRAWN BY FOUR BLACK HORSES -- AND DRIVEN BY A BLACK-CAPED HUNCHBACK! BUT THERE **CAN'T** BE ANY-THING SUPER-NATURAL ABOUT THAT! -- PROBABLY JUST SOME PRACTICAL JOKER!

THE HEARSE PULLED UP IN FRONT OF A HOUSE A FEW DOORS AWAY FROM THE HOTEL -- AND AS THE DRIVER POINTED--

GOOD HEAVENS, THAT SCREAM-- IT CAME FROM A MAN IN THE AGONY OF DEATH! I'D BETTER RUN OVER THERE AND SEE IF MY MEDICAL HELP'S NEEDED!

NO, NO-- YAGHH!

THERE GOES THE HEARSE -- BUT I CAN'T STOP TO INVESTIGATE THAT **NOW!**

WHEN I ENTERED THE HOUSE AND OFFERED MY SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE INSIDE--

IT'S -- **NO USE!** HE'S BEYOND ANY HUMAN HELP!

MAY I SEE HIM--IN CASE THERE **IS** SOMETHING I CAN DO?

HE... HE'S **DEAD** -- AND WITH TERRIBLE BRUISES ON HIS BODY -- AS. .AS IF HE'D BEEN **STONED!**

IT WAS THEN THAT I DETERMINED TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS FANTASTIC AFFAIR--

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHETHER THERE'S ANY TRUTH TO THE LEGENDARY **CURSE OF PONT DE LUSSAN!** I'LL DRIVE AROUND TOWN UNTIL I MEET UP WITH THAT HEARSE-- AND FIND OUT WHO THAT DRIVER **REALLY IS!**

MINUTES LATER--

ANOTHER SCREAM -- FROM UP THAT STREET! HERE'S WHERE I MEET UP WITH THAT **PHANTOM DRIVER!**

YAAGHH!

I SPED DOWN THE STREET-- AND BRAKED THE CAR TO A HALT WHEN I SAW THE HEARSE APPROACHING ME!

THE STREET'S TOO NARROW FOR THE HEARSE TO PASS ME -- SO THE DRIVER WILL **HAVE** TO STOP!

STOP! I WISH A FEW WORDS WITH YOU!

BUT THE DRIVER DIDN'T REIN UP HIS HORSES! AND JUST WHEN IT SEEMED AS IF THERE WERE GOING TO BE A CRASH, I SUDDENLY SAW THAT THE HORSES AND HEARSE WERE BODILESS, WITHOUT SUBSTANCE -- FOR THEY WERE BEING DRIVEN RIGHT THROUGH AND PAST ME!

THEY...THEY'RE JUST BLACK WHISPS OF DEATHLY-COLD AIR-- THE LEGEND WAS **TRUE!**

THEN--

YOU ARE NOT A DESCENDANT OF THOSE WHO STONED ME, SO I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU! BUT TRY TO INTERFERE WITH ME ONCE MORE, AND **YOU TOO WILL DIE!**

I GOT BACK TO MY HOTEL ROOM AND HURRIEDLY PACKED -- WHILE EVERY NOW AND THEN, THE AGONIZING SCREAM OF AN UNFORTUNATE VILLAGER WOULD RING OUT IN THE STREETS--

I GUESS SOME WILL CALL ME A COWARD FOR RUNNING LIKE THIS -- BUT HOW CAN YOU FIGHT A **BODILESS PHANTOM THAT'S BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES?**

YAAGH!

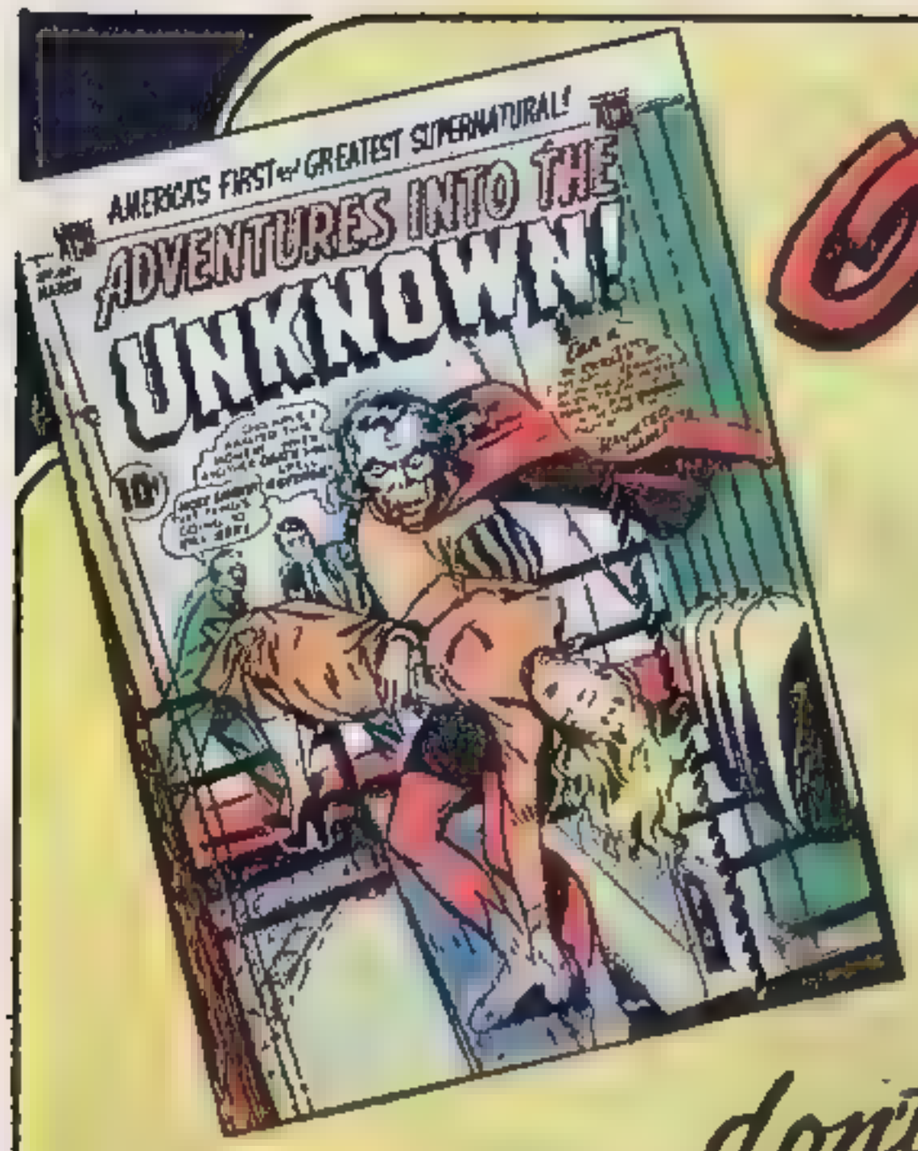
YAAGHH

BESIDES, I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE ALIVE -- TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THE HORRIBLE HEARSE OF PONT DE LUSSAN! IF ANYONE WANTS TO VERIFY MY STORY, **LET** THEM -- BUT **I'LL** NEVER COME HERE AGAIN!

3

THAT WAS DR. JOSIAH R. VANDERHOLT'S EXPERIENCE, AS TOLD TO US! WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT -- BUT DO ANY OF YOU READERS **DARE INVESTIGATE HIS STORY?**

THE END



Out of the Unknown ...TO YOU!

That's ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

AMERICA'S FIRST GREAT MAGAZINE OF THE SUPERNATURAL! READ IT FOR CHILLS AND THRILLS--- FOR TENSE, SPINE-TINGLING ENTERTAINMENT SUCH AS YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED! FOR GASPS GALORE,

don't miss

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

AT YOUR favorite NEWSSTAND

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233)

Of OUT OF THE NIGHT, published Bi-monthly at St. Louis, Mo., for October 1st, 1952.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Creston Publications Corp., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis 7, Mo.; Editor, Richard E. Hughes, 120 West 183rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing editor, None; Business manager, Frederick H. Iger, 50 Beverly Road, Great Neck, L. I., N. Y.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Creston Publications Corp., 420 DeSoto Ave., St. Louis 7, Mo.; B. W. Sangor, 7 West 81st Street, New York, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

(Signed) RICHARD E. HUGHES, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of September, 1952.

Nat C. Sherman, Notary Public, State of New York. (My commission expires March 30, 1953)

TWICE IN A SINGLE NIGHT, THE OLD HOUSE KNEW THE STEALTHY APPROACH OF TERROR---WHEN THE SHADOWS THEMSELVES COWERED BACK FROM A PHANTOM GUIDED BY AN EVIL MIND! BUT THERE WAS **ANOTHER** GHOST WAITING IN THOSE HAUNTED HALLS---AND ITS LURKING FORETOLD DEATH---STRIKING FROM THE MUSTY GLOOM OF

MADMAN'S MANOR!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HESITATED ABOUT ACCEPTING YOUR COUSIN OWEN'S INVITATION FOR A WEEKEND AT LAWTON MANOR, DIANA! AFTER ALL---DON'T YOU OWN HALF THE PROPERTY RIGHTS?

THAT ISN'T THE POINT, BILL! I'VE HAD A GOOD REASON FOR LEAVING OWEN IN SOLE POSSESSION OF THE MANOR ALL THESE YEARS---AND FOR THE **SAME** REASON---***I'VE BEEN RELUCTANT TO SPEND SO MUCH AS A SINGLE NIGHT THERE!***

I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE HORRIBLE **PHANTOM OF LAWTON MANOR**---THAT'S SUPPOSED TO APPEAR JUST BEFORE DEATH STRIKES! IT MAY BE SHEER SUPERSTITION, BUT IT MAKES ME WANT TO SHUN THE OLD HOUSE---BECAUSE IF I ***DID*** SEE SOMETHING THERE---I THINK I'D DIE OF FRIGHT!

SOON AFTERWARD---WITH THE WIND MOANING LIKE A PHANTOM VOICE AMONG THE TURRETS---

LAWTON MANOR! I DON'T HAPPEN TO BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, DIANA---BUT IF I DID---I'D CERTAINLY EXPECT TO FIND THEM HERE!

THAT'S WHY I'VE STAYED AWAY, BILL! I'LL FEEL A LOT SAFER WITH YOU ALONG--- BUT I STILL CAN'T SHAKE OFF A FEELING OF UTTER DREAD!

OWEN---THIS IS BILL MORLEY! WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED NEXT MONTH--- AND I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO MEET HIM WHILE HE'S STILL A FELLOW-BACHELOR!

THANKS FOR PERSUADING DIANA TO COME MORLEY! THIS HAUNTING LEGEND HAS MADE HER LOSE INTEREST IN THE OLD PLACE---AND I THOUGHT A SHORT STAY HERE WOULD CONVINCE HER WHAT NONSENSE IT IS!

SERIOUSLY, OWEN---IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO SCARE A GIRL! IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN?

I WON'T DENY THAT FIVE GENERATIONS OF LAWTONS HAVE SEEN A PHANTOM WHENEVER DEATH STRUCK IN THE FAMILY! BUT FIGURE IT OUT---IF I'VE SPENT YEARS IN THE MANOR WITHOUT A SINGLE UNPLEASANT MOMENT ---WHAT CHANCE IS THERE THAT DIANA WILL BE TERRIFIED DURING THE COURSE OF A COUPLE OF NIGHTS?

WELL, YOU'VE HAD A LONG DRIVE--- AND I SUPPOSE YOU'RE READY TO HIT THE SACK! DIANA CAN USE THESE ROOMS---AND I'VE GOT BILL'S QUARTERS READY DOWN THE HALL!

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, HONEY! AND FOR PETE'S SAKE---DON'T GET YOURSELF WORKED UP ABOUT SPOOKS!

DARKNESS HAS NO FORM---SHADOWS MAKE NO SOUND---BUT AS THE MOMENTS PASS---

HEAVEN KNOWS I'VE NEVER BEEN A HYSTERICAL TYPE---BUT I CAN'T DENY SOMETHING I FEEL! I'M BEING WATCHED--- WATCHED BY HIDDEN EYES--- AND THERE'S SOME KIND OF HORRIBLE VISION FORMING IN MY MIND!

IT---IT'S AN IMAGE I CAN'T BLOT OUT! A CROUCHING EVIL FORM WITH GLINTING EYES ---READY TO POUNCE!

THEN---FOR A NUMBING SECOND---

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THAT CHAIR? IT'S CHANGING--- BIT BY BIT---INTO A WEIRD, GHOSTLY MASS!

IN A BLINDING FLASH OF TERROR---

OHH!

I'VE GOT TO REACH BILL---FAST--- BEFORE I'M PARALYZED BY FEAR!

GREAT GUNS, DIANA---WHAT'S WRONG?

OWEN---IT'S HORRIBLE! I WANT YOU TO TAKE A LOOK IN THERE---AND THEN TELL ME LAWTON MANOR ISN'T HAUNTED!

THERE CERTAINLY ISN'T A TRACE OF ANYTHING NOW! CAN YOU DESCRIBE WHAT YOU SAW, DIANA?

OF COURSE I CAN---DO YOU THINK I'D BE HORRIFIED BY SOMETHING INVISIBLE? THAT CHAIR BECAME A HIDEOUS HUNCHED-UP PHANTOM--- EXACTLY WHAT I EXPECTED TO SEE A SECOND BEFORE IT HAPPENED!

IF THE GHOST PART OF THE OLD LEGEND IS TRUE ---WHAT ABOUT THE REST? SUPPOSE ONE OF US IS FATED TO DIE---TONIGHT?

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DIANA---DON'T UPSET YOURSELF! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT WITH YOUR PRECONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE HOUSE---YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS WAS PRACTICALLY BOUND TO PRODUCE AT LEAST ONE IMAGINARY PHANTOM?

OWEN'S PROBABLY RIGHT, HONEY! YOU'VE BEEN ON EDGE EVER SINCE YOU CAME--- AND IT BROUGHT ON A VIVID OPTICAL ILLUSION!

NO---WE MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT A SINGLE INCIDENT! A REAL GHOST WOULD SHOW ITSELF MORE THAN ONCE, DIANA---AND THEN I WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT DEATH LEGEND!

BILL, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME---DON'T DOUBT I SAW THAT THING JUST BECAUSE IT WASN'T HERE A MOMENT LATER! MAYBE IT SENSED OWEN APPROACHING IN THE CORRIDOR---AND VANISHED SO THAT IT *WOULDN'T* BE SEEN!

IT DOESN'T MATTER, DIANA! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU'VE HAD A BAD SHOCK---BUT TRY TO CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT THE TERROR'S OVER AND DONE WITH!

AN HOUR LATER---IN A DARKNESS THAT SEEMS TO SEETHE THROUGH THE CORRIDOR WITH A NAMELESS MENACE---

CREAK! CREAK!

THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO SLEEP! HOW CAN I--- KNOWING THAT *ANOTHER* GLIMPSE OF THAT FIEND WILL BEAR OUT THE LEGEND---*AND PROVE THAT I'M THE ONE WHO'S FATED TO DIE!*

AS A SINISTER FORCE FILTERS THROUGH THE GLOOM---

I'VE GOT THAT CREEPING SENSATION AGAIN---SOMETHING WATCHING--- *SOMETHING ABOUT TO TAKE SHAPE!*

IT'S *HERE*---MARKED BY THAT SHIMMERING GLOW! BUT GOOD HEAVENS, IT *CAN'T* BE ANYTHING HORRIBLE---THOSE ARE JUST BIG LEAVES--- *THEY CAN'T TURN INTO ANYTHING ELSE!*

SLOWLY---GROPING FORTH FROM THE DIM HORROR THAT CROUCHES BEHIND THEM---

OHH! THEY'RE HANDS ---GHOSTLY HANDS ---CLUTCHING TOWARD ME!

AGAIN---FLARING EVILLY FROM THE SHADOWS---

THE PHANTOM! I PRAYED IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION---BUT NOW I KNOW I SEE IT--- AND I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!

AS THE FEARFUL SHAPE ADVANCES---ITS EYES HOLDING AN UNSPOKEN MESSAGE OF DOOM---

I WON'T LET THAT THING COME ANY CLOSER! BEFORE I TREMBLE AND WAIT FOR DEATH--- I'LL JUMP OUT THE WINDOW!

THEN---WITH THE MOONLIT DRIVEWAY SIXTY FEET BELOW---

POW!

THE GHOST IS FADING! I CAN'T GUESS WHY--- BUT I HEARD SOME-THING OUT IN THE CORRIDOR!

BILL! WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG WITH OWEN?

I DISCOVERED WHAT HE WAS UP TO---AND KAYOED HIM! LISTEN--- YOU JUST SAW THAT GHOST AGAIN--- RIGHT?

YES---AND I GOT SO PANICKY I NEARLY KILLED MY-SELF! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ---WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH OWEN?

EVERYTHING---BECAUSE YOU SAW EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED YOU TO SEE! I KEPT MY DOOR AJAR JUST IN CASE YOU NEEDED HELP---AND THEN I SPOTTED OWEN SNEAKING UP THE STEPS! IT SEEMED STRANGE THAT HE SHOULD STOP EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU SAW THE GHOST---AND AS I SLIPPED CLOSER ---I SAW HIM MOVE THIS PICTURE!

GOOD HEAVENS! THIS OPENING CONCEALED BY THE PICTURE HAS GLASS AT THE OTHER SIDE--- I CAN SEE RIGHT INTO MY ROOM!

YEP! FROM THAT SIDE IT LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY MIRROR--- BUT IT'S A TRICK DEVICE THAT PERMITTED OWEN TO STARE AT YOU WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED!

A TRICK MIRROR! THAT COULD EXPLAIN MY FEELING OF BEING WATCHED, BILL---BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY CONNECTION WITH THAT CREEPING PHANTOM!

I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU WILL, HONEY ---ONCE WE'VE TAKEN A LOOK AROUND OWEN'S ROOM!

A MOMENT LATER---

MANUAL OF HYPNOTISM ---THE SCIENCE OF HYPNOSIS --- BILL---HE'S GOT A DOZEN BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT!

EXPLAINS EVERYTHING, DOESN'T IT? OWEN KNEW YOU BELIEVED THAT A GHOST IN LAWTON MANOR WAS A FORERUNNER OF DEATH---AND THAT'S WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WHEN HE INVITED YOU HERE! YOU COULDN'T SEE HIS HYPNOTIC GAZE, IMPLANTING A HORRIBLE IMAGE IN YOUR MIND--- BUT OWEN WAS SURE THAT IF IT HAPPENED OFTEN ENOUGH---YOU'D EITHER DIE OF SHOCK OR COMMIT SUICIDE!

HE WANTED TO KILL ME! BUT GOOD HEAVENS ---EVEN A MADMAN WOULD HAVE A REASON!

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT! I AM A MADMAN--- AND I HAVE A REASON!

A REAL ESTATE SYNDICATE FINDS THIS PROPERTY JUST THE SPOT THEY WANT FOR A RESORT HOTEL---AND THEY'VE OFFERED MORE MONEY THAN I EVER DREAMED OF OWNING! WHY SHOULD I SHARE IT WITH DIANA--- WHEN HER DEATH WOULD MEAN GETTING EVERYTHING?

TOO BAD THE GHOST ANGLE MISFIRED, RAT! LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO MURDER THE USUAL WAY--- WITH A GUN!

SLOWLY, THE MOTIONING HAND IS RAISED--- THE EYES OF A MADMAN GLEAMING BEHIND IT!

DO YOU THINK I WILL RISK THAT--- WHEN I CAN USE HYPNOSIS? EVERYONE KNOWS LAWTON MANOR IS SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED---WHAT WOULD BE MORE PLAUSIBLE THAN TWO PEOPLE LIKE YOU, UNACCUSTOMED TO ITS HORRORS--- COMMITTING SUICIDE?

YE GODS, I'M BLACKING OUT---I'VE GOT TO OBEY THIS FIEND!

YOU WILL FOLLOW--- YOU WILL FOLLOW! THESE WILL BE YOUR LAST LIVING FOOTSTEPS---MOVING TOWARD DEATH!

A MOMENT LATER---WITH THE WIND MOANING A DIRGE IN THE DARKNESS---

HAA HA! WHAT A PITY LAWTON MANOR WON'T BE REALLY HAUNTED AFTER TONIGHT--- BY THE GHOSTS OF TWO LOVERS WHO PLUNGED FROM THE WALLS! BUT WITHIN A WEEK, THIS OLD ROOST WILL BE SOLD---IT'LL BE TORN DOWN---AND YOU'LL BE IN YOUR TOMBS!

HERE IS WHERE I WANT YOU---UP HERE! AND THE MOMENT YOU ARE AT THE EDGE ---YOU WILL JUMP!

UNEXPECTEDLY---

I CAN FEEL SOMETHING STRANGE IN THE DARKNESS! IT'S EXERTING A POWERFUL FORCE---RUNNING COUNTER TO MY HYPNOTIC IMPULSES!

GREAT GUNS! IN ANOTHER SECOND--- WE'D HAVE BEEN GONERS!

THEN---LIKE A FIGURE SHAPED BY THE HAZY MOONBEAMS---

BILL---GOOD LORD! THIS TIME IT ISN'T HYPNOSIS---IT'S REAL ---THE GHOST OF LAWTON MANOR!

NOW I KNOW WHAT I FEARED! THAT THING ---COMING TOWARD ME---SPREADING ITS TERROR LIKE A DIZZY WHIRLPOOL!

IN THE NEXT INSTANT---

BLAGH!

BILL---IT'S HORRIBLE! I'D RATHER DIE MYSELF THAN FACE ANY MORE OF THIS!

YOU WON'T HAVE TO, HONEY! THE GHOST IS GONE---NOW THAT ITS PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED BY THE CRUMPLED BODY SPRAWLED IN THE DRIVE-WAY!

CRASH!

DARLING---JUST A FEW HOURS AGO YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS! HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW---AFTER SEEING THE THING THAT SAVED OUR LIVES?

WE'RE GOING AHEAD WITH OWEN'S PLAN---AND LEVEL LAWTON MANOR TO THE GROUND! NOT BECAUSE OF THE GHOST WE SAW, DIANA---BUT TO PREVENT A MORE HORRIBLE FORM OF HAUNTING---BY THE EVIL SPIRIT OF THE MAD-MAN WHO LIVED HERE!

THE END!

BOYS! GIRLS! MOTHERS! DADS!

Free! 221 STAMPS

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FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE!

Start NOW to Enjoy the HOBBY of Presidents and Kings With These Hundreds of Exciting Stamps

YOURS FREE—these 221 fascinating stamps from all over the earth. *Each stamp is different!* Total price—in Standard Catalog—guaranteed to be AT LEAST FIVE DOLLARS! And they have *not* been "picked over"—so there's no telling *what* valuable stamps you may find. ALL ARE YOURS FREE if you send for the Complete Stamp Collector's Outfit described below. This amazing offer is bound to go "like hotcakes." So don't be left out. Mail coupon AT ONCE!

GUARANTEED WORTH OVER $5.00 AT STANDARD CATALOG PRICES!

CHINA AIR-MAIL — Face value $10,000 in actual Nationalist Chinese currency!

STALIN — This forbidden stamp "smuggled" out from behind Iron Curtain at great risk.

HITLER — Stamp much in demand, getting harder to obtain all the time.

TIMBUCTOO — Shows native of French Equatorial Africa in frenzied war dance

MADAGASCAR — Vital island in World War II. Off coast of Africa

UNITED NATIONS — Can be used in only one post-office in the world — UN building in New York

DJIBOUTI — Stamp shows world-famous Mohammedan shrine.

RUSSIA — This unique stamp was worth a quarter of a MILLION RUBLES!

COSTA RICA — Famous bull stamp of Central American republic.

TOGOLAND — Interesting scene of tribal native women pounding grain

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO START ENJOYING THIS MOST FASCINATING OF ALL HOBBIES

WITH Your 221 FREE STAMPS Will Come This Complete Stamp Collector's Outfit:

1. Famous *"Adventurer Stamp Album"*; place for 4,000 stamps; Illus.
2. *"How To Collect Postage Stamps."* Helpful book tells how to be an expert; many fascinating stories about stamps.
3. *Magnifying Glass.* Use it to detect mistakes that make stamps valuable, and other important details on face of stamps.
4. *Special Watermark Detector;* how to use.
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STAMP COLLECTING opens up new worlds of fun, profit, and adventure to you. Many successful people are stamp enthusiasts—presidents, kings, executives, movie stars, explorers, athletes, etc.

Now it's EASY for YOU to get started. Right WITH the 221 Free Stamps described above we will send you a Complete Stamp Collector's Outfit. If you decide to *keep* it, the price is ONLY ONE DOLLAR. But if you DON'T think it's the biggest bargain you ever saw, simply send it back—and we'll refund your dollar AND YOUR POSTAGE, TOO! Could any offer be fairer?

The Outfit contains the five items listed and shown at left . . . EVERYTHING YOU NEED to get started on this exciting hobby. You'll have fun and excitement starting a collection that can grow in value for the rest of your life!

EXAMINE KIT FOR 7 DAYS WITHOUT RISK!

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LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. AAG-3
Littleton, New Hampshire

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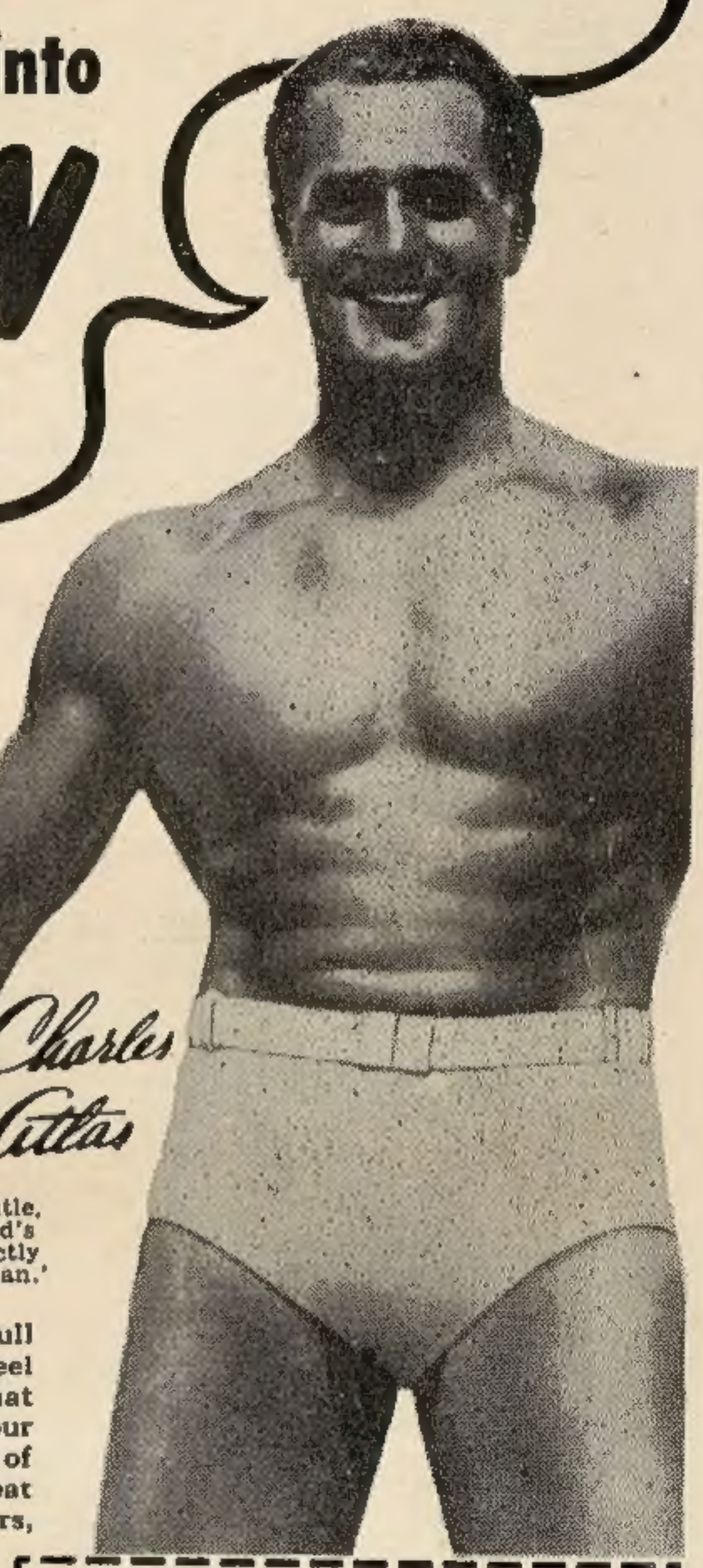

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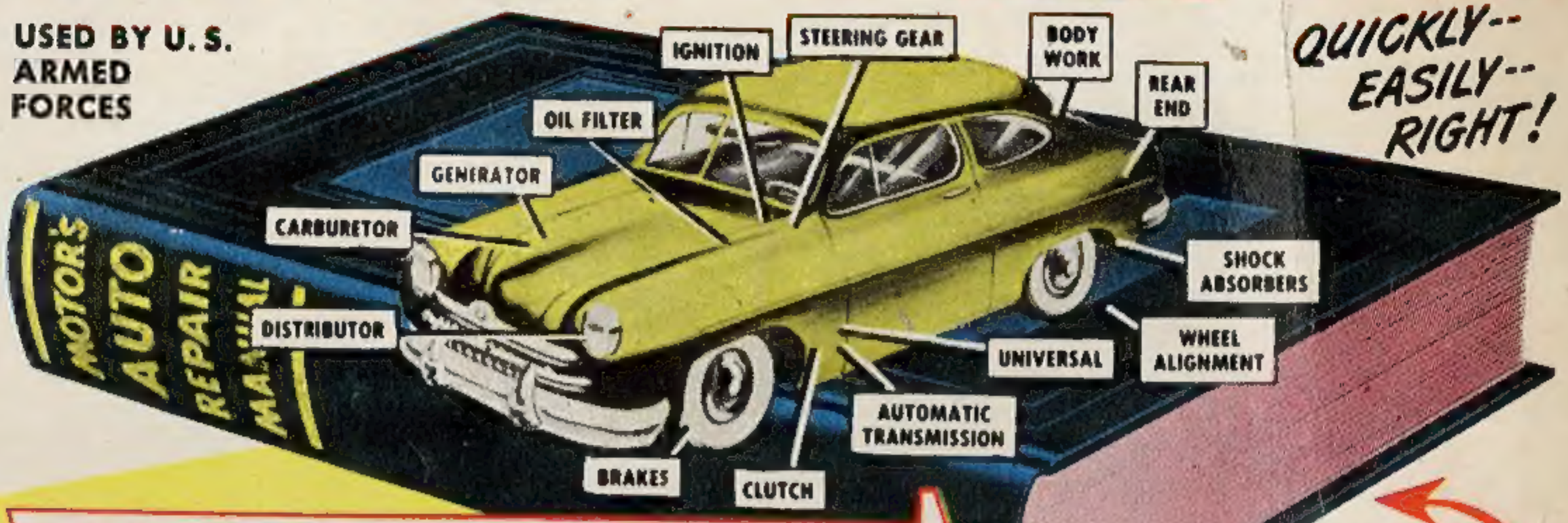

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